

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, RH

SUBJECT:SUMMARY OF U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. NOVEMBER 5 NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES THREE ARTICLES GENEVA CONFERENCE. BERNARD WEINRAUB REPORTS THE BRITISH SUGGESTION OF MARCH 1, 1978 AS DATE FOR ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE EVOKED BLUNTLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM FOUR NATIONALIST LEADERS, WHO ARE DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE WITHIN ONE YEAR. MUGABE QUOTED AS SAYING "IT'S GOT TO BE 12 MONTHS OR WE GO," WITH SIMILARLY NEGATIVE QUOTES FROM OTHER NATIONALIST LEADERS. ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE DATE, ACCORDING TO WEINRAUB, IS MORE SYMBOLIC THAN SIGNIFICANT, BUT FIXING OF DATE WOULD GIVE CONFERENCE "MOMENTUM THAT HAS BEEN LACKING IN THE WEEK OF SLUGGISH NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK OF PRELIMINARY TALKS. IF DELEGATES FAIL TO AGREE ON A DATE, THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS AT THE MEETING ARE SLIM."

2. TIMES ALSO REPORTS SMITH'S REMARKS TO PRESS UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN SALISBURY CRITICIZING IVOR RICHARD FOR BEING "TOO READY TO APPEASE AND TO BACK DOWN TO THE DEMANDS OF EXTREMISTS." SMITH REPORTED TO HAVE SINGLED OUT MUGABE

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AS EXTREMIST WHO IS "RIDING AROUND ON CLOUD NINE WITH A

CAMOUFLAGE TERRORIST UNIFORM... WE HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT ANYONE WHO TALKS TO US AND CLAIMS TO REPRESENT THE TERRORISTS IS TALKING THROUGH HIS HAT."

3. TIMES REPORTS BOB FUNSETH'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ASST. SECRETARY SCHAUFELER WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS NOVEMBER 8, AND THAT AMB. REINHARDT FLYING TO LUSAKA AND DAR ES SALAAM FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND NYERERE. NYERERE ALSO REPORTED TO BE HOSTING MEETING OF FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THIS WEEKEND TO DISCUSS MOST RECENT RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. ON THE MILITARY SITUATION, THE TIMES CARRIES REPORTS FROM REUTER ON BOMBARDMENT OF UMTALI WITH MORTARS AND SOVIET-MADE 122 MM ROCKETS AND CONTINUING CLASHES ALONG RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE BORDER.

4. FINALLY, TIMES CARRIES AP REPORT FROM GENEVA ON MUGABE'S REJECTION OF TRUST FUND FOR RHODESIA: "WE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. TO US IT SEEMS AS IF ITS PURPOSE IS TO BIND ZIMBABWE POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY AND IT COULD THEREFORE COMPROMISE OUR INDEPENDENCE." MUGABE, WHOM ARTICLE CHARACTERIZES AS MAN PROVIDING MUCH OF THE INTELLECTUAL DRIVE IN THE BLACK NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, IS SAID TO FAVOR A NONRACIAL, INTERNATIONALLY NON-ALIGNED POLICY GUIDED BY SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES. NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD, ACCORDING TO MUGABE, GUARANTEE RIGHTS OF WHITE MINORITY BECAUSE "OUR CONCERN IS NOT TO DIFFERENTIATE. WE WANT A UNITED ZIMBABWEAN NATION." ARTICLE SAYS TRUST FUND WOULD PROVIDE \$2 BILLION FROM SEVERAL WESTERN COUNTRIES TO REVIVE RHODESIA'S ECONOMY AND INSURE COMPENSATION FOR WHITES WHO ABANDON THE BLACK RULED STATE, LEAVING SAVINGS, PENSION RIGHTS AND OTHER ASSETS BEHIND. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, MUGABE BELIEVES THAT ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE FREE TO FORMULATE ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND THAT ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT, NOT INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM, SHOULD ASSESS VALUE OF WHITE BUSINESSES AND PROPERTIES. ARTICLE QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES AS STATING THAT MUGABE WILL STAND FIRM ON DEMANDS FOR EARLY INDEPENDENCE AND BLACK CONTROL OF MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, DEFENSE AND

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LAW AND ORDER, EVEN AT RISK OF DEADLOCKING THE CONFERENCE.

5. BRIEF SUMMARY OF NEWS DISPATCHES IN NOVEMBER 5 WASHINGTON POST FOCUSES ON REJECTION BY BOT SMITH AND NATIONALISTS OF BRITISH COMPROMISE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SMITH'S REMARKS UPON ARRIVING IN SALISBURY. KISSINGER

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